

Response to Office Action Mailed November 8, 2007

A. Claims In The Case

Claims 1-3 have been rejected. Claims 1-3 are pending in the case.

B. Objections to Drawings

The Office Action states that:

The contact part comprising an edge part having a tapered edge configuration wherein the edge part has a sectional configuration which shares at least one side face with the contact support part recited in claim 1 must be shown ...

Applicant submits that such features have been shown in the drawings. Referring to Figure 1, the depicted probe includes a supporting part 2 of the probe. Attached to probe supporting part 2, is contact part 5. An enlarged view of contact part 5 is depicted in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 2, contact part 5 includes a contact support part 10 and edge part 9. Edge part 9 has a tapered edge configuration, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. Edge part 9 shares at least one side face with contact support part 10, as shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4. Applicant submits that all of the features of the claims are depicted in the figures.

The Examiner indicated that different reference characters, specifically “9” and “13”, are used to designate the edge part. For clarification, Applicant has amended the reference characters for the figures. Applicant has included a marked-up copy of the figures indicating the changes made and replacement sheets for the figures.

C. The Claims Are Not Indefinite Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejected claim 1 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Referring to Figure 1, the depicted probe includes a supporting part 2 of the probe. Attached to probe supporting part 2, is contact part 5. An enlarged view of contact part 5 is depicted in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 2, contact part 5 includes a contact support part 10 and edge part 9. Edge part 9 has a tapered edge configuration, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. Edge part 9 shares at least one side face with contact support part 10, as shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4. Applicant submits that claim 1 is supported by the Figures and specification as filed.

D. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,407 to Khoury ("Khoury"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Claim 1 describes a combination of features including but not limited to the following features:

a connection terminal part integrally formed and connected to a substrate;

a probe support portion; and

a contact part, the contact part comprising

an edge part having a tapered end configuration; and

a contact support part which supports the edge part and couples the edge part to

the probe support part,

wherein the contact part extends from the probe support part, and wherein the edge part has a sectional configuration which shares at least one side face with the contact support part and wherein the edge part has a thickness that is less than the thickness of the contact support part.

Applicant's claims are directed to a modified probe. Turning to Fig. 1, a schematic of Applicant's probe is depicted. Probe includes a contact part (5) and a probe supporting part (2). Contact part (5) includes a contact support part (10, See Fig. 2) and an edge part (9). As can be seen in the figures, edge part (9) has a thickness that is less than the thickness of the contact support part.

As noted in the specification, such a configuration is different from prior art contact parts. For example, Figures 6 and 7 depict commonly used prior art contact parts. Many prior art contact parts include either a pyramidal contact part (Fig. 6A) or a conical contact part (Fig. 6B). Khoury appears to teach the use of a pyramidal contact part, similar to the contact part depicted in Fig. 6A. Specifically, referring to Fig. 11B of Khoury, a top view of contact part "e" is depicted. It appears from this representation, that contact part "e" has a square pyramidal shape to it, similar to the square pyramidal; shape shown in the prior art contact part of Fig. 6A.

In contrast, Applicant's claims are directed to a contact part which includes an edge part and a contact support part. The edge part extends from the contact support part and has at least one side face that is shared with the contact support part. See for example, the side view representations depicted in Figure 2, the bottom part of Figure 3, and the left bottom part of Figure 4. Khoury does not appear to teach or suggest a contact part having this configuration, nor would it be obvious from the teachings of Khoury to modify the contact part described in Khoury to have the configuration described in Applicant's claims and depicted in Figures 2, 3, and 4.

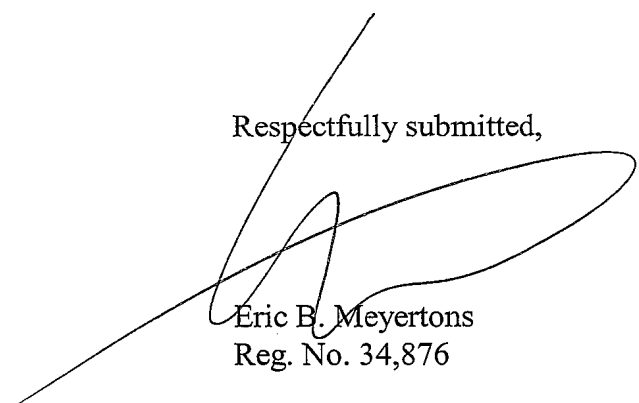
Applicant submits, therefore, that the combination of features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Khoury, nor would they be obvious in view of Khoury. Applicant further submits that claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Khoury for at least the same reasons' cited above.

E. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5682-00800/EBM

Respectfully submitted,

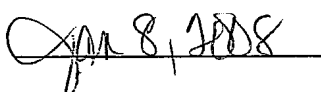


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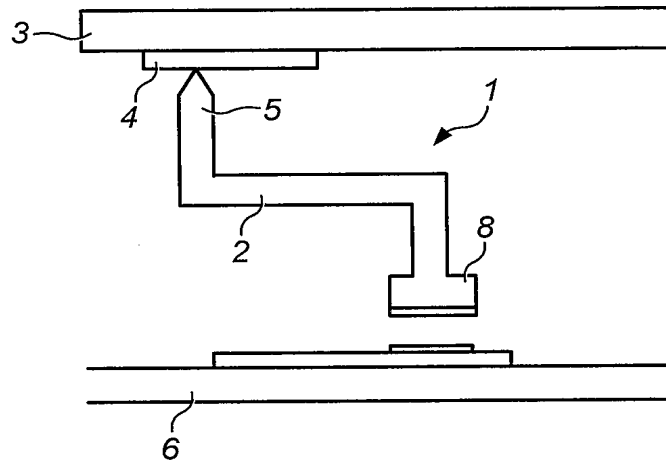


FIG. 1

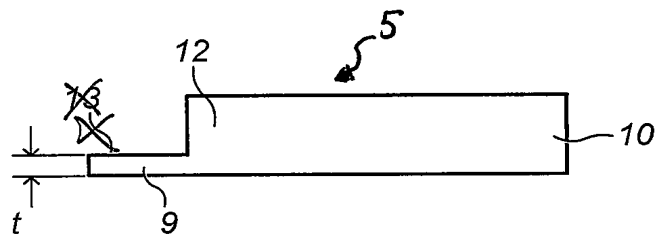


FIG. 2

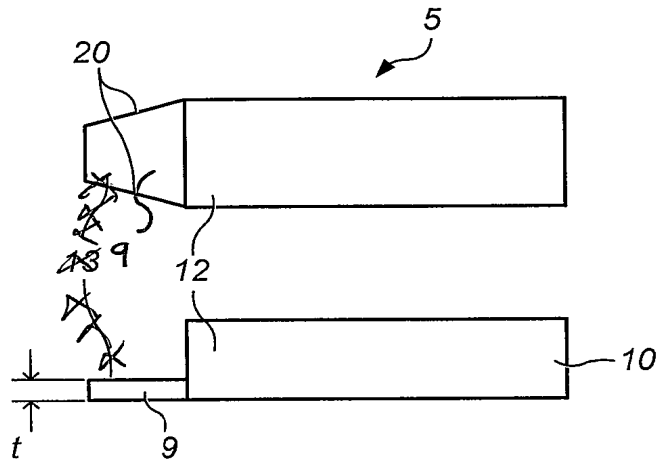


FIG. 3

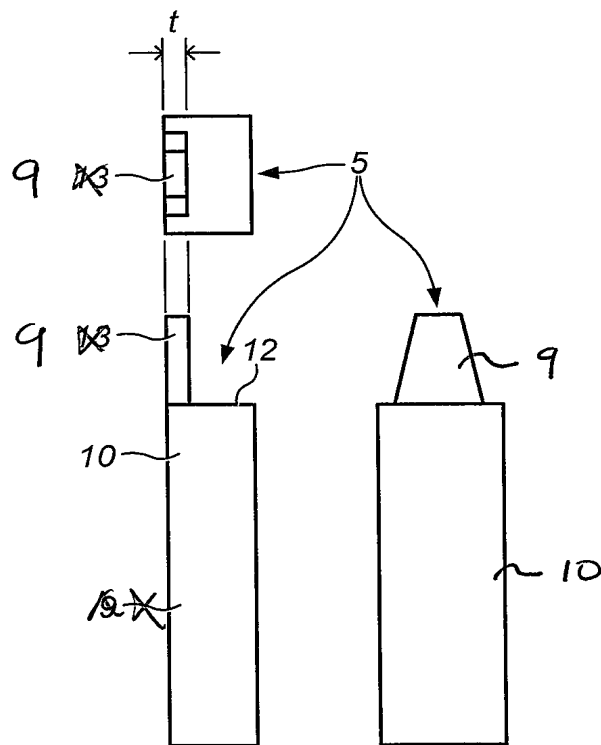


FIG. 4

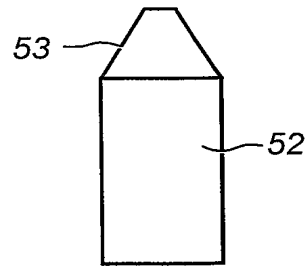
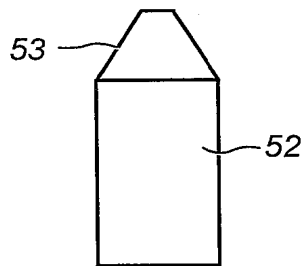
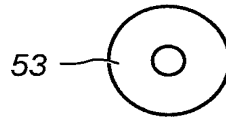
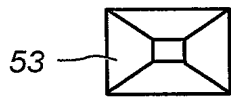
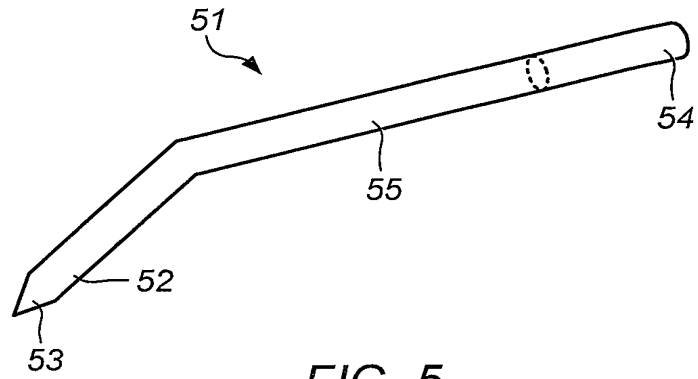


FIG. 6A
(PRIOR ART)

FIG. 6B
(PRIOR ART)